MARVEL
READY BREK COMP. INSIDE!
9th Apr. 88
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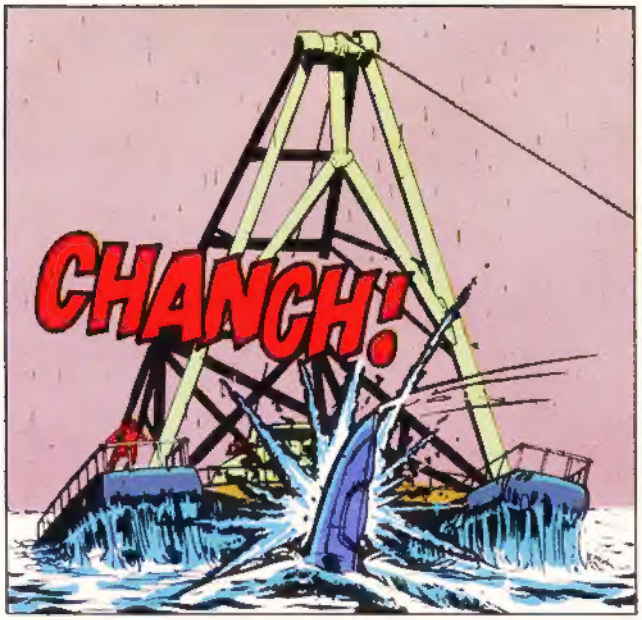
THE TRANSFORMERS
and
ACTION FORCE
MOLTEN MADNESS!

TRANSFORMERS™

SALVAGE!
PART 1
LONDON, ENGLAND – APRIL 1ST, 1988.
FOR SOME, IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT CONJURES UP VISIONS OF PICKING UP A SWEET WRAPPER FROM A CITY STREET OR COUNTRY LANE.
THIS MAN HAS ALWAYS LIKED TO DO THINGS ON A GRANDER SCALE.

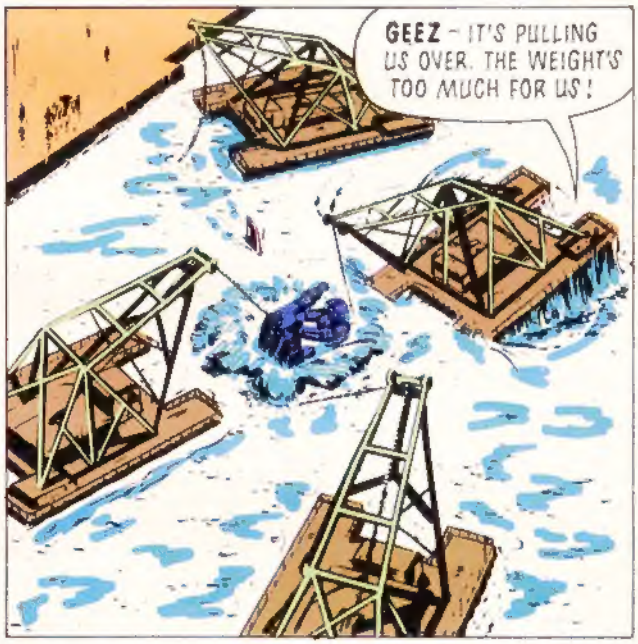
Script SIMON FURMAN ■ Art LEE SULLIVAN ■ Letters TOM FRAME ■ Colour EUAN PETERS

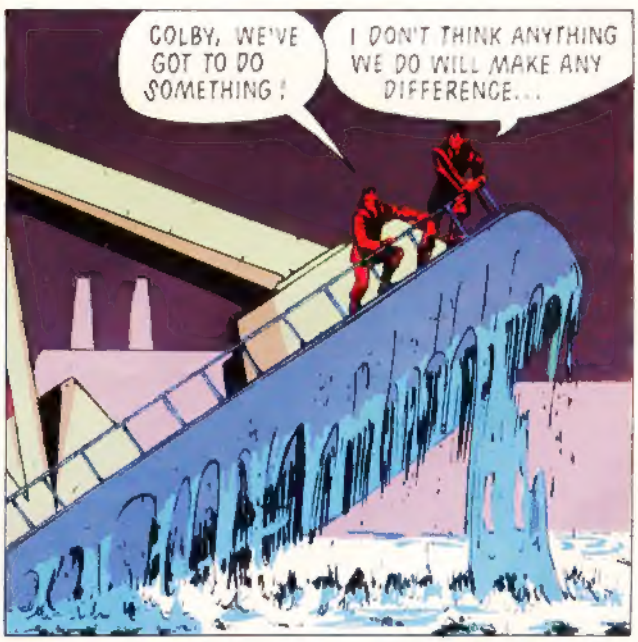
THERE WE ARE. TWO GIANT ROBOTS, AS PROMISED. AND TO THINK, YOU DOUBTED I COULD DELIVER !
I'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, MISTER BRANSON, THAT'S ONE HECK OF A BIT OF LITTER.
THESE PICTURES WILL LOOK GREAT IN TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPERS. THANKS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE ON THIS ONE.
DON'T MENTION IT. AS SOON AS I HEARD THAT TWO OF THESE TRANSFORMERS HAD ENDED UP IN THE RIVER THAMES,* I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS UP.
*IN ACTION FORCE 27.
AS WELL AS SHOWING PEOPLE HOW SERIOUS I AM ABOUT MY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT, HAVING VIRGIN'S NAME SPLASHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY'S NEWSPAPERS CAN'T HURT !
MISTER BRANSON – SHARK !
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN? THIS IS THE THAMES !
YEAH, AND THAT'S A SHARK'S FIN ! YOU GONNA TELL HIM HE'S IN THE WRONG PLACE ?


CHANCH!

HOLY MOTHER OF GOD!
HELLO, HUMAN. HERE – THAT BURDEN SEEMS TO BE CAUSING YOUR CRAFT SOME DEGREE OF STRAIN...

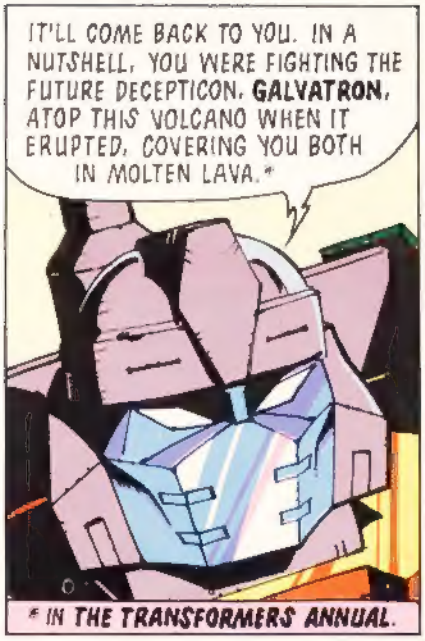
CHUK!
LET ME RELIEVE YOU OF IT!


GEEZ – IT'S PULLING US OVER. THE WEIGHT'S TOO MUCH FOR US!

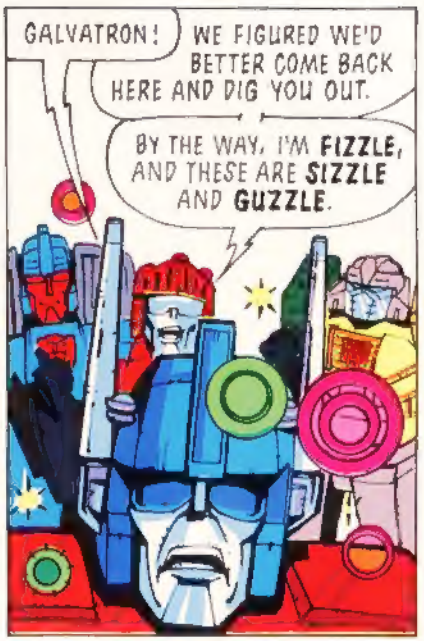

COLBY, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
I DON'T THINK ANYTHING WE DO WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE...

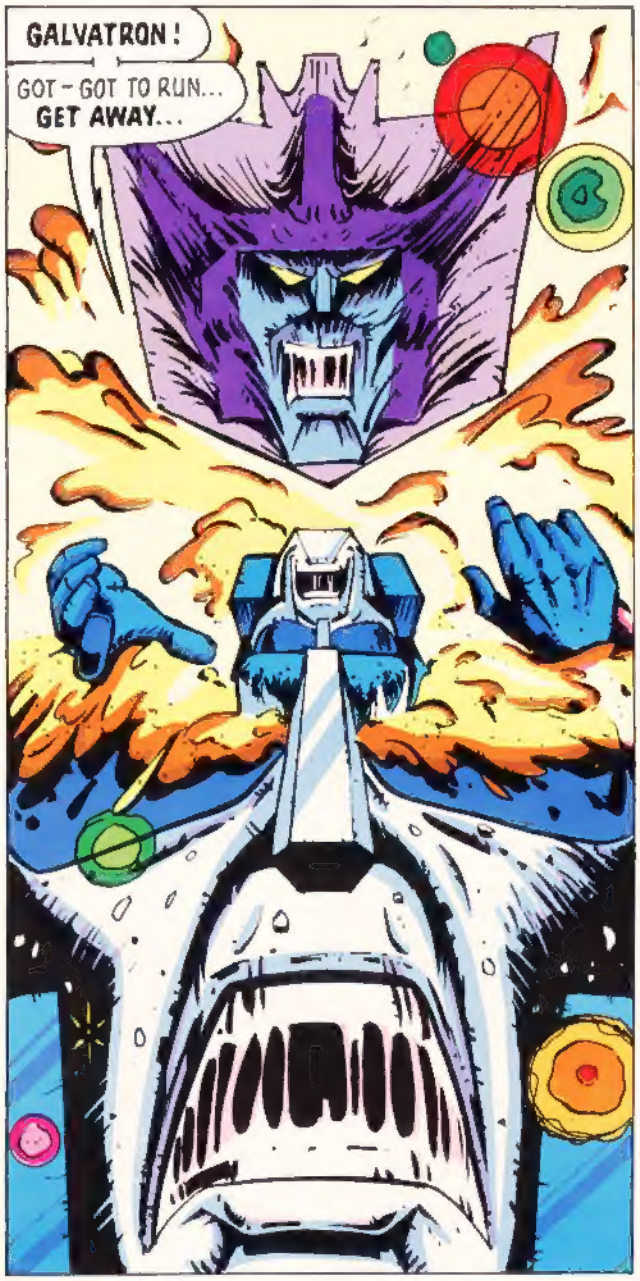
...TO THEM!
DECEPTICONS... FIRE!
FUP!
FUP!
FUP!
FUP!
OKAY, THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM. THRUST, DIRGE, RAMJET, BLITZWING...
CHUK!
...TAKE 'EM AWAY!
RIGHT, JAWBREAKER. OH, AND HUMANS...
THANKS FOR DOING ALL THE HARD WORK FOR US!

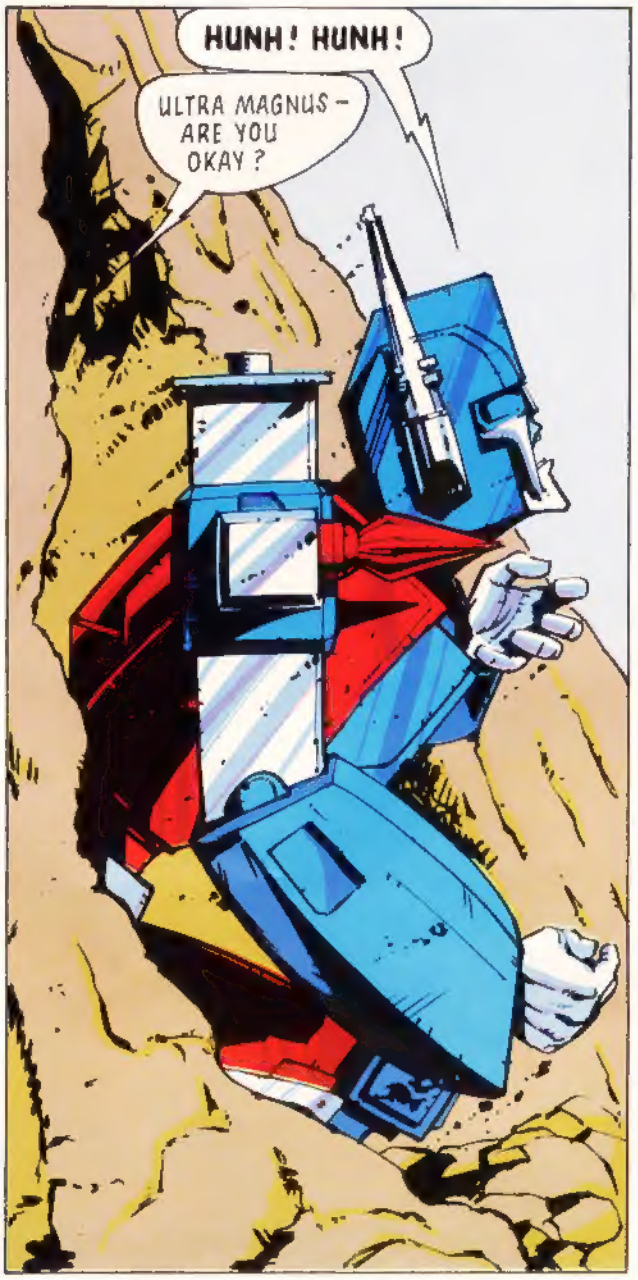
MOUNT VERONA, OREGON – SOME HOURS LATER...
OKAY, SPARKLERS, THAT'S THE HARD PART OVER WITH!
LET'S JUST HOPE IT WASN'T A WASTE OF TIME DIGGING HIM OUT!
ULTRA MAGNUS, ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
URRR...
I-I...THINK SO. WHAT...HAPPENED CAN'T SEEM TO...
UNFF!
TAKE IT EASY THERE, MAGNUS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOUR MOTOR CONNECTIONS GOT ANY EXERCISE.
YEAH, YOU'VE BEEN UNDER THAT LAVA FOR MONTHS NOW!
MONTHS? LAVA? I – DON'T UNDERSTAND!


IT'LL COME BACK TO YOU. IN A NUTSHELL, YOU WERE FIGHTING THE FUTURE DECEPTICON, **GALVATRON**, ATOP THIS VOLCANO WHEN IT ERUPTED, COVERING YOU BOTH IN MOLTEN LAVA.*
* IN THE TRANSFORMERS ANNUAL.

G-GALVATRON?
THAT'S HIM. ANYWAY, HE MANAGED TO FREE HIMSELF AND WE FOLLOWED HIM AS FAR AS WE COULD. HE SORTA MADE IT VERY CLEAR HE DIDN'T WANT OUR COMPANY.*
* ISSUES 152/153.







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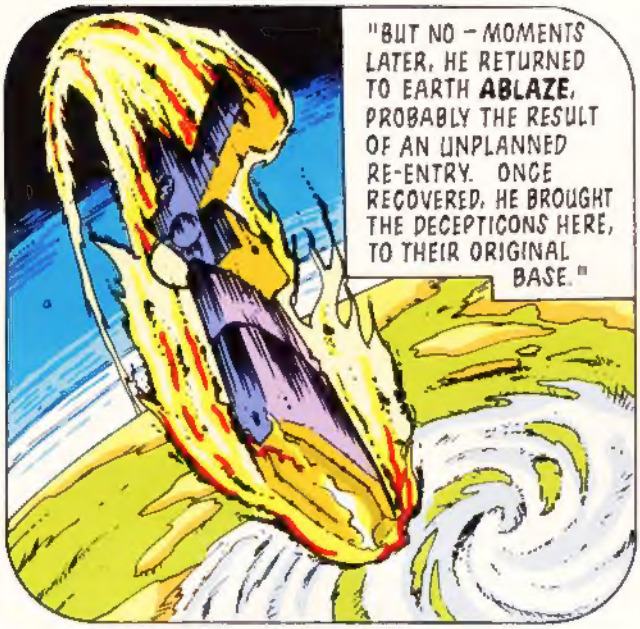
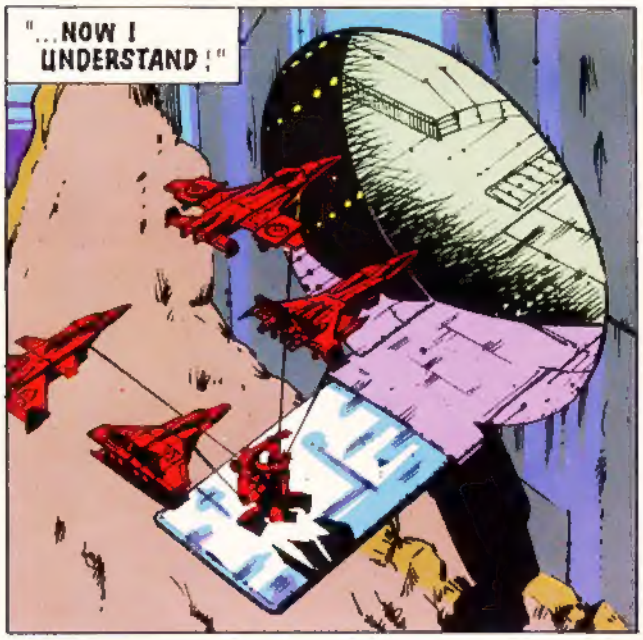
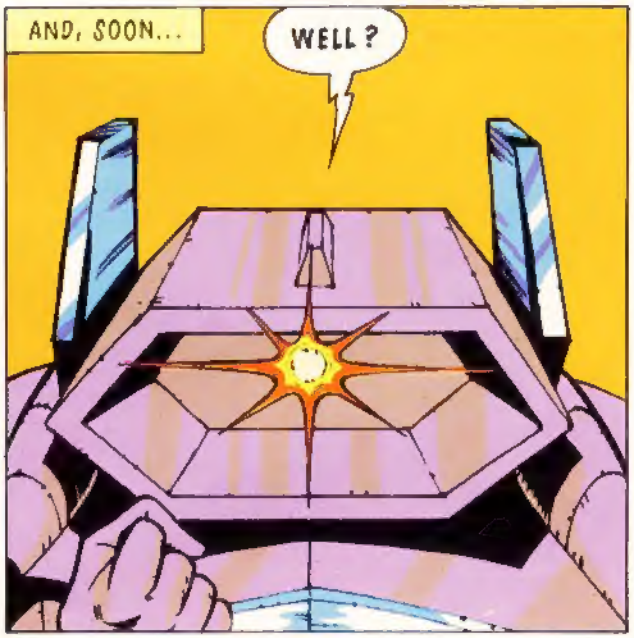
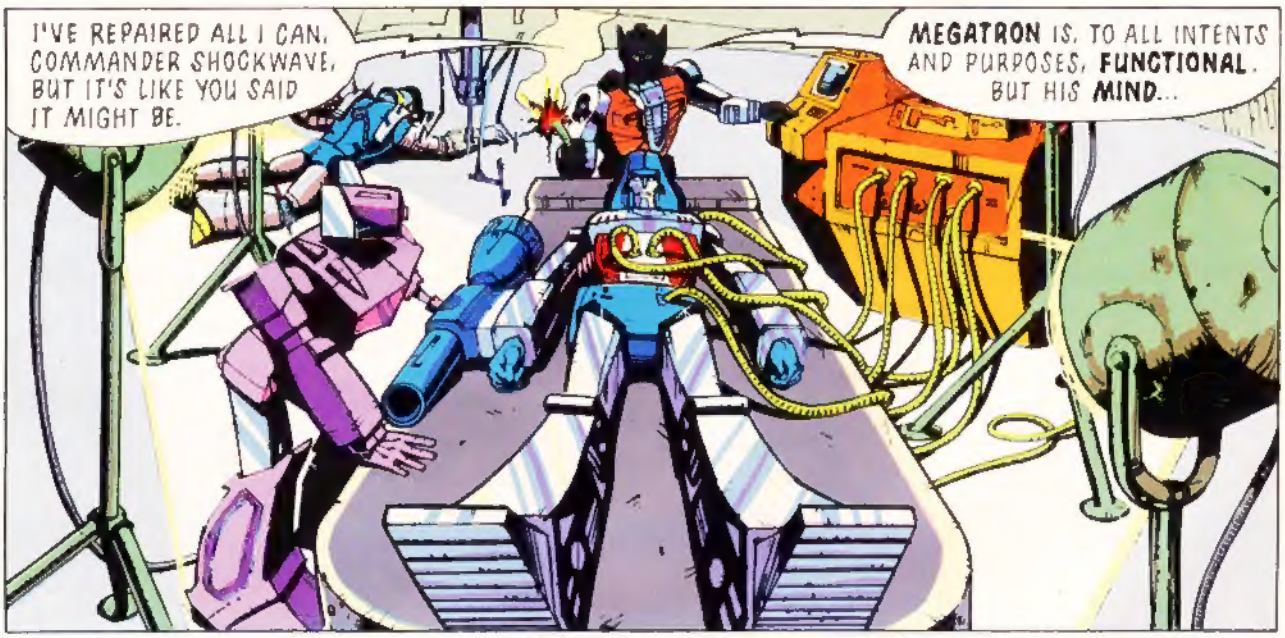
I - I DON'T KNOW! TELL ME YOU'RE SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING, AND I'LL FEEL **SANE** AT LEAST!
OH, I SEE IT ALRIGHT!
I JUST DON'T BELIEVE IT!
AT THAT MOMENT, SOME MILES EAST...
NOW WHAT'S HE UP TO IN THERE?
FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS HE'S HAD THE LAST OF THE EARTH-BOUND DECEPTICONS WORKING FEVERISHLY ON SOMETHING IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORTRESS BASE!
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S USUALLY SO **LOGICAL**, FEW OF HIS RECENT ACTIONS MAKE ANY SENSE!
"I THOUGHT HE'D ESCAPED ME WHEN HE LAUNCHED THE DECEPTICONS' UNDERSEA BASE INTO SPACE"*
*LAST ISSUE.


"BUT NO – MOMENTS LATER, HE RETURNED TO EARTH **ABLAZE**, PROBABLY THE RESULT OF AN UNPLANNED RE-ENTRY. ONCE RECOVERED, HE BROUGHT THE DECEPTICONS HERE, TO THEIR ORIGINAL BASE."

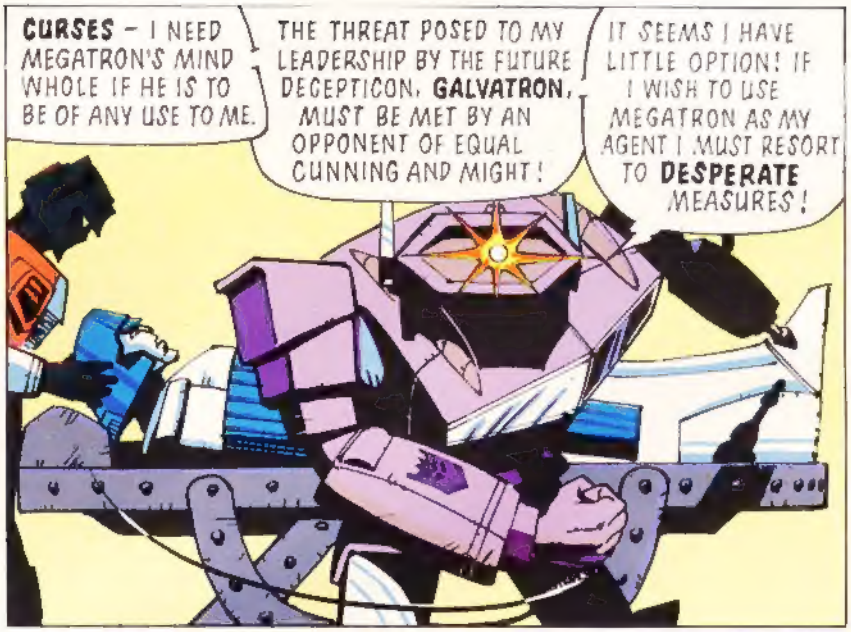
SHOCKWAVE'S BEEN ENSCONCED IN THERE EVER SINCE, NO DOUBT PLANNING WAYS TO THWART MY PLANS.
SHOULD I STRIKE NOW, OR WAIT AND SEE WHAT HE'S -- **AH...**


"...**NOW I UNDERSTAND!**"

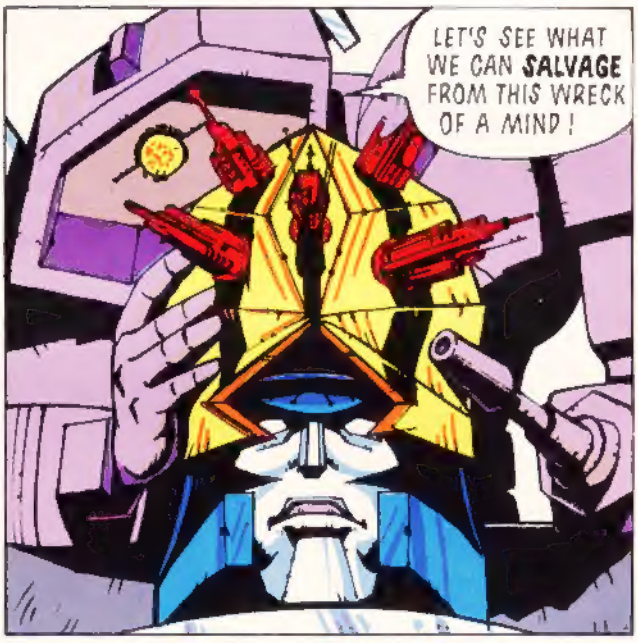

AND, SOON...
WELL?

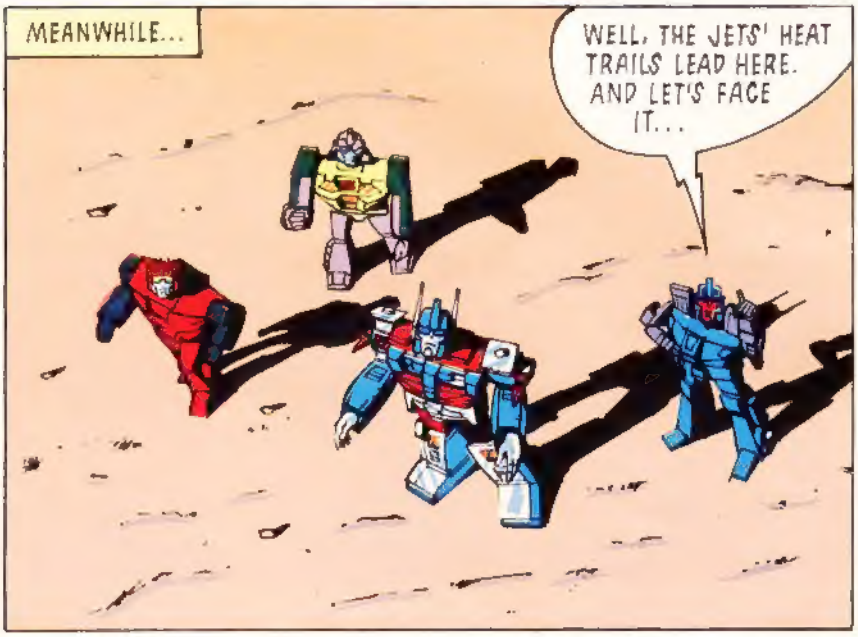

I'VE REPAIRED ALL I CAN, COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE, BUT IT'S LIKE YOU SAID IT MIGHT BE.
MEGATRON IS, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, **FUNCTIONAL**. BUT HIS **MIND**...

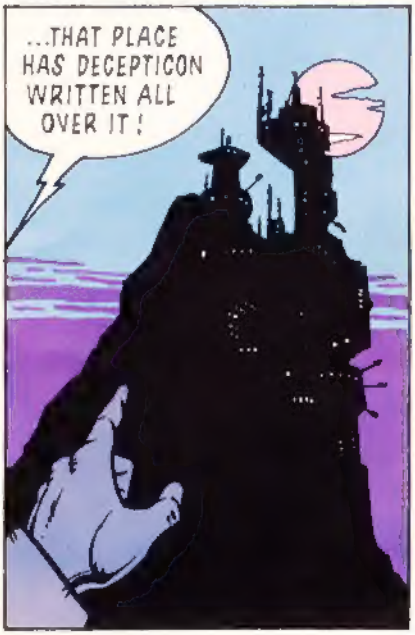
...WELL, DOES THE EARTH TERM, VEGETABLE, MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

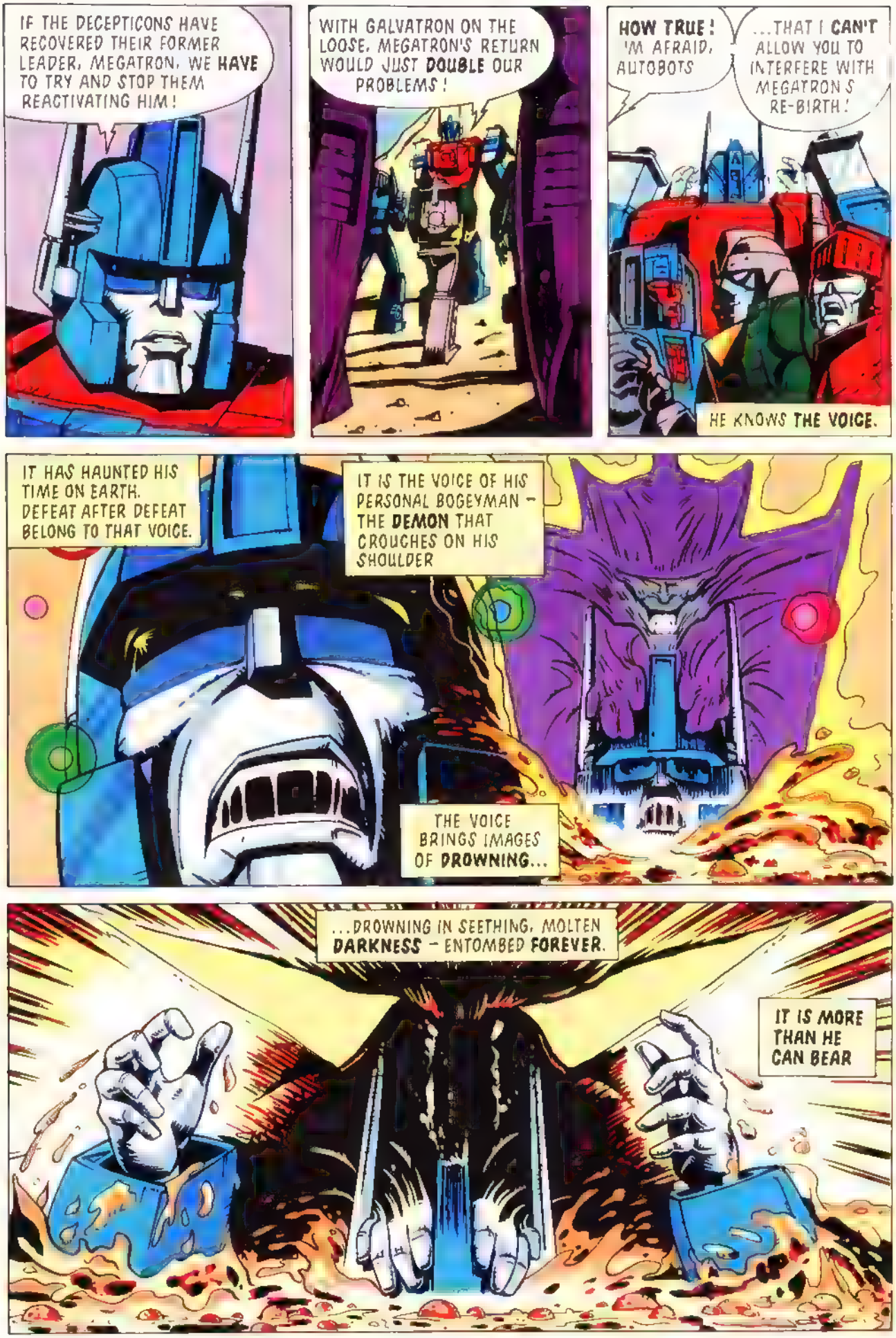

CURSES – I NEED MEGATRON'S MIND WHOLE IF HE IS TO BE OF ANY USE TO ME.
THE THREAT POSED TO MY LEADERSHIP BY THE FUTURE DECEPTICON, GALVATRON, MUST BE MET BY AN OPPONENT OF EQUAL CUNNING AND MIGHT!
IT SEEMS I HAVE LITTLE OPTION! IF I WISH TO USE MEGATRON AS MY AGENT I MUST RESORT TO DESPERATE MEASURES!

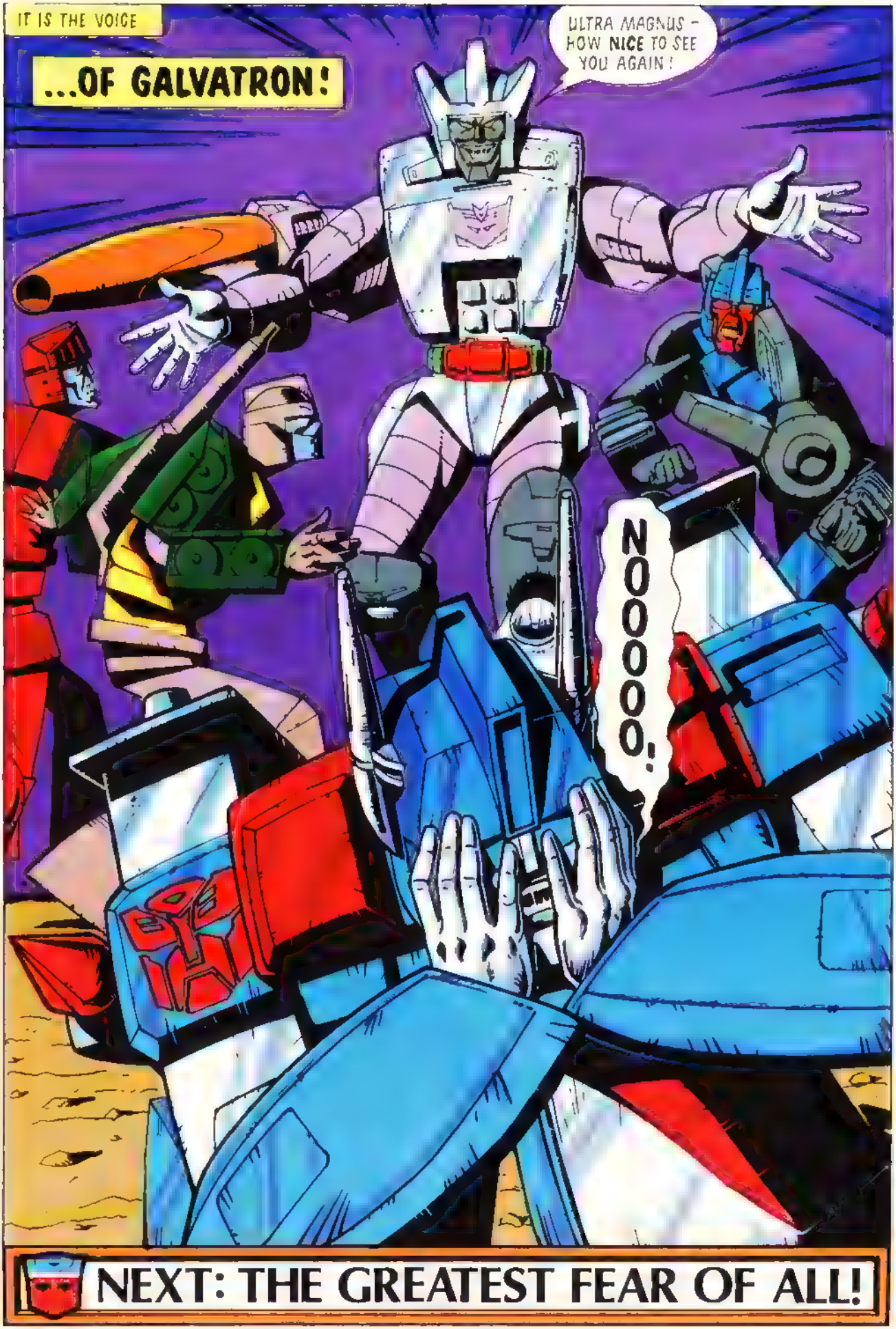
SNAP TRAP – BRING ME THE PSYCHO PROBE!


LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN SALVAGE FROM THIS WRECK OF A MIND!


MEANWHILE...
WELL, THE JETS' HEAT TRAILS LEAD HERE. AND LET'S FACE IT...

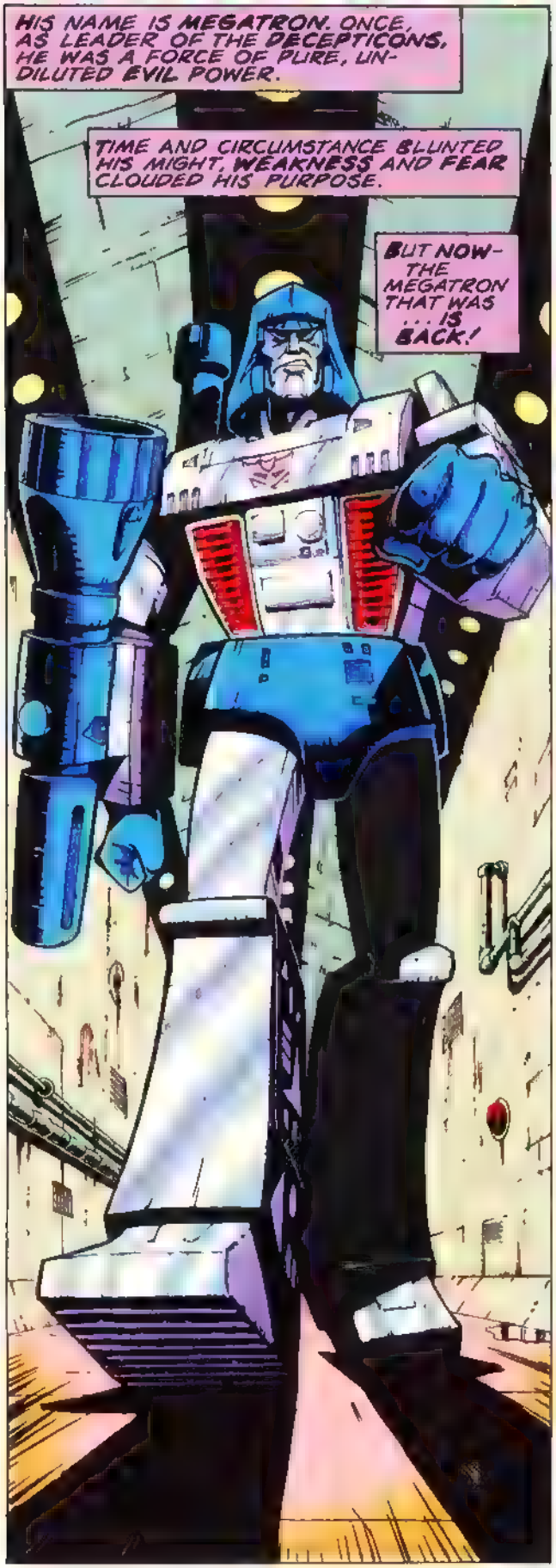

...THAT PLACE HAS DECEPTICON WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!

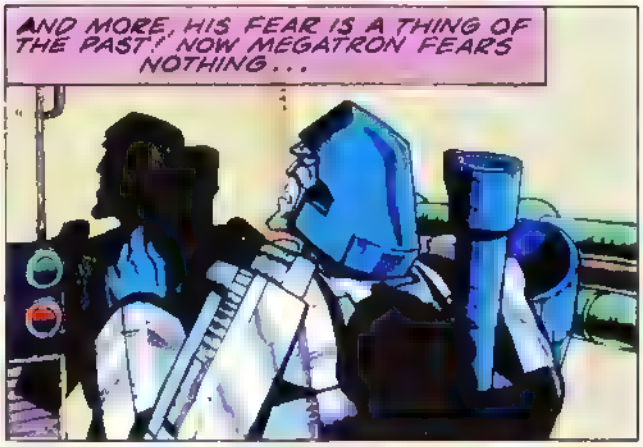

IF THE DECEPTICONS HAVE RECOVERED THEIR FORMER LEADER, MEGATRON, WE HAVE TO TRY AND STOP THEM REACTIVATING HIM!
WITH GALVATRON ON THE LOOSE, MEGATRON'S RETURN WOULD JUST DOUBLE OUR PROBLEMS!
HOW TRUE! I'M AFRAID, AUTOBOTS
...THAT I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO INTERFERE WITH MEGATRON'S RE-BIRTH!
HE KNOWS THE VOICE.
IT HAS HAUNTED HIS TIME ON EARTH. DEFEAT AFTER DEFEAT BELONG TO THAT VOICE.
IT IS THE VOICE OF HIS PERSONAL BOGEYMAN - THE DEMON THAT CROUCHES ON HIS SHOULDER
THE VOICE BRINGS IMAGES OF DROWNING...
...DROWNING IN SEETHING, MOLTEN DARKNESS - ENTOMBED FOREVER.
IT IS MORE THAN HE CAN BEAR

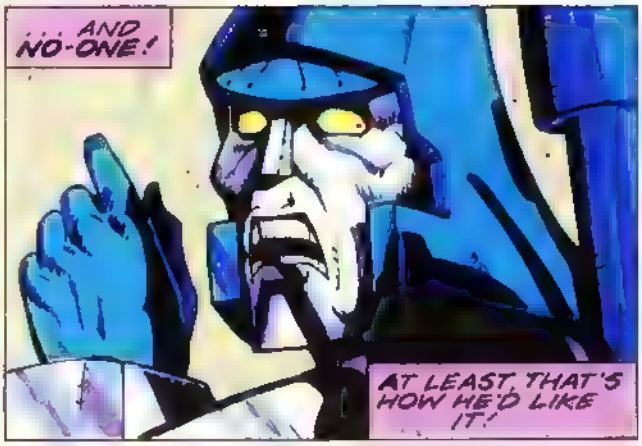

IT IS THE VOICE
...OF GALVATRON!
ULTRA MAGNUS - HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
NOOOOO!
NEXT: THE GREATEST FEAR OF ALL!

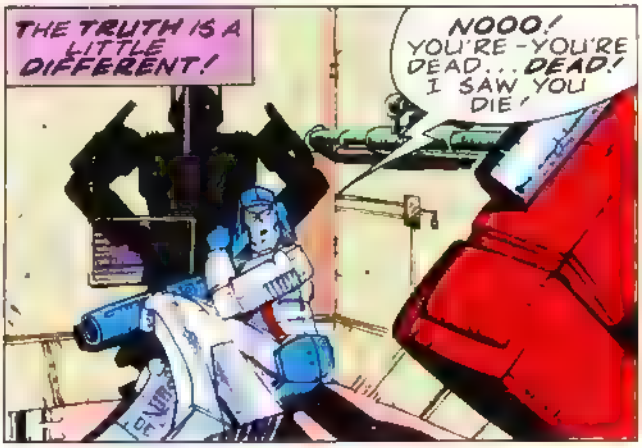
MARVEL
16th Apr.88
№161 32p
THE TRANSFORMERS
and
ACTION FORCE
NO! IT CAN'T BE YOU...
YOU'RE DEAD!
Bryan Hitch '88

TRANSFORMERS


HIS NAME IS MEGATRON. ONCE, AS LEADER OF THE DECEPTICONS, HE WAS A FORCE OF PURE, UN-DILUTED EVIL POWER.
TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE BLUNTED HIS MIGHT. WEAKNESS AND FEAR CLOUDED HIS PURPOSE.
BUT NOW- THE MEGATRON THAT WAS ... IS BACK!







Script SIMON FURMAN ■ Art LEE SULLIVAN ■ Letters GLIB ■ Colours EUAN PETERS

...I DIDN'T..
AND I DIDN'T GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF FINDING AND RECLAIMING THE CATATONIC MEGATRON* JUST TO HAVE THIS DEVICE...
*LAST ISSUE.
...PLUNGE HIM DEEPER INTO THE INSANITY THAT PLAGUED HIM IN THE PAST!
I DID WARN YOU, COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE THE PSYCHO PROBE DOES ITS JOB... IT'S JUST THAT SOMETIMES IT DOES IT TOO WELL!
I CAN SEE THAT, SNAP TRAP BUT THE FACT REMAINS-I NEED MEGATRON FIT AND SANE!
PRIMED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE FUTURE DECEPTICON, GALVATRON, IS HIS MORTAL ENEMY...
.. MEGATRON WILL BECOME MY ULTIMATE WEAPON.
GALVATRON SEEKS TO USURP ME AS DECEPTICON COMMANDER, AND SINCE HE OUT-CLASSES ME IN TERMS OF RAW POWER...
... IT IS LOGICAL THAT I USE AN EXPENDABLE AGENT TO STOP OR DELAY HIM!
BUT LET'S FACE IT, BEFORE I CAN USE MEGATRON...

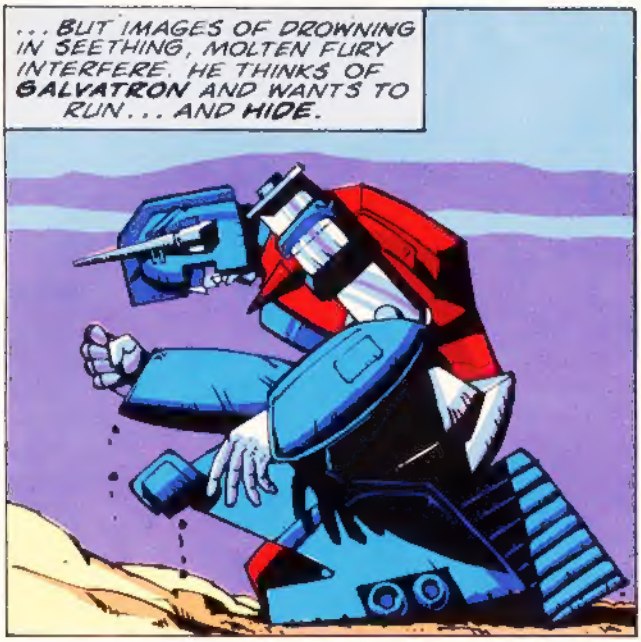
"... HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIS PERSONAL DEMONS!"
N-NO! NOT YOU... P-PLEASE NO!
OUTSIDE THE DECEPTICONS' FORTRESS BASE...
HAH! IF THIS IS THE AUTOBOTS' GREATEST WARRIOR...
YOU CAN SEE WHY WE DECEPTICONS ARE SURE TO TRIUMPH!
WHAT - WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM, GALVATRON?
DONE, FIZZLE? WHY, NOTHING. AT LEAST ... NOT THIS TIME. NO I IMAGINE ULTRA MAGNUS IS JUST RE-LIVING A FEW OLD CLASHES!
YOU SEE, EACH TIME WE'VE FOUGHT, YOUR COMRADE HAS BEEN DEFEATED ... COMPLETELY, UTTERLY DEFEATED!
AND SUCH DEFEATS LEAVE MENTAL, IF NOT PHYSICAL SCARS!
OUR LAST BATTLE ENDED WITH BOTH OF US BURIED ALIVE UNDER TONS OF MOLTEN LAVA* I COULD DEAL WITH THAT...
ULTRA MAGNUS EVIDENTLY COULDN'T I FEAR, SPARKLERS, THAT YOUR FRIEND...
* THE TRANSFORMERS ANNUAL.

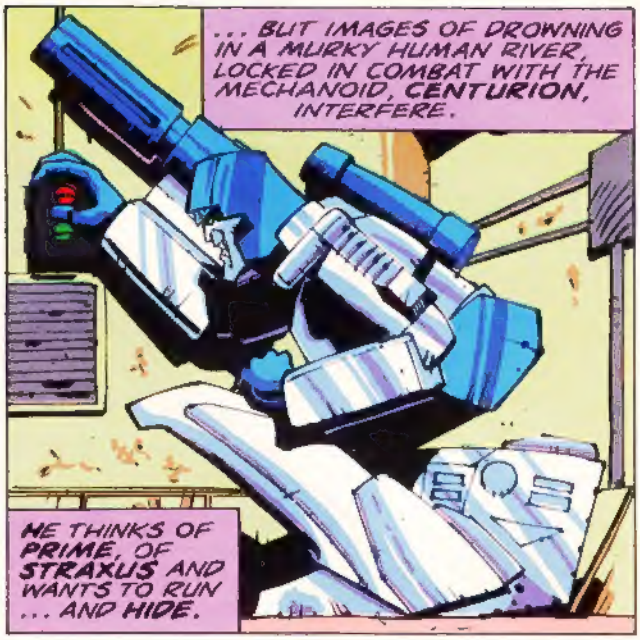
"...HAS FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE!"
IT'S ALL OVER, MEGATRON...
...AND I'VE WON!
ST STRAXUS?
THAT'S LORD STRAXUS, IF YOU PLEASE WHY SO SURPRISED TO SEE ME, MEGATRON? AFTER ALL, WE DO SHARE THE SAME MIND!*
BEFORE, YOU MANAGED TO KEEP ME FROM ASSERTING ANY INFLUENCE ON THIS MIND...
* SINCE A BOTCHED MIND-SWAP IN ISSUE 103.
BUT NOW... NOW I HAVE A CHANCE TO TAKE CONTROL! YOU'VE GIVEN UP, RETREATED TO A SAFE LITTLE ROOM IN YOUR MIND
THAT S FINE BY ME BECAUSE IF YOU RE NOT WILLING TO FIGHT ..
SKAK!
...I AM!

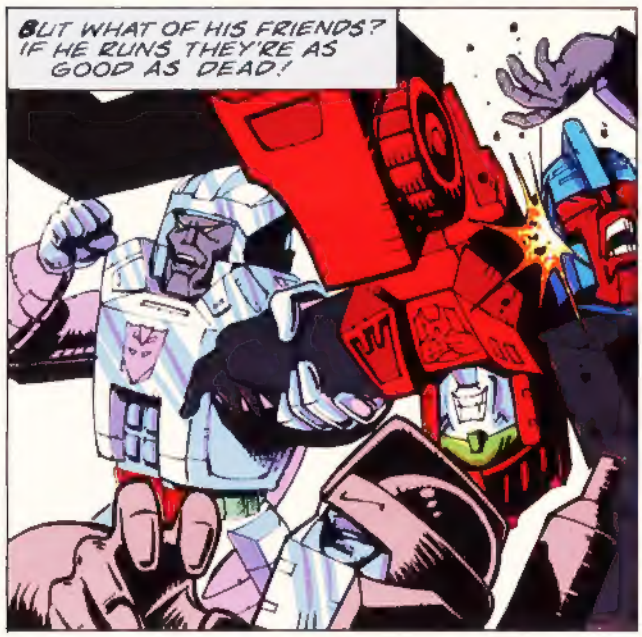
MEANWHILE...
LIKE YOUR PITIFUL ULTRA MAGNUS, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT. OTHER MATTERS DEMAND MY ATTENTION. TAKE HIM AND GO
NO CAN DO I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANT SHOCKWAVE TO SUCCEED, BUT I KNOW WE CAN'T ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN THE MENACE OF MEGATRON ENDS HERE NOW...
... EVEN IF IT MEANS GOING THROUGH YOU!
FIZZLE... YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!
SIZZLE, GUZZLE - YOU READY? WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE THIS EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT...
... BECAUSE WE SURE CAN'T EXPECT ANY HELP FROM ULTRA MAGNUS--
GNNNG!
THAK!

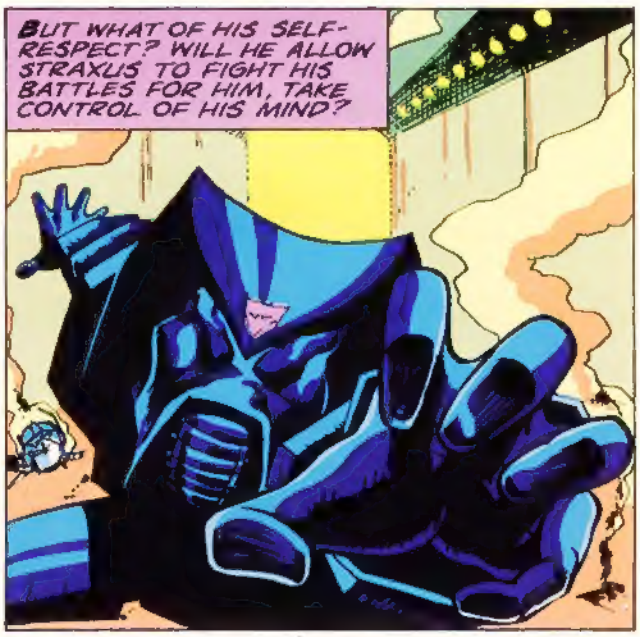
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

ELSEWHERE...
THAT'S IT, MEGATRON, JUST SIT THERE-DO NOTHING.
I'LL FIGHT YOUR BATTLES FOR YOU, SHOW YOU HOW REDUNDANT YOU ARE.
AND WHEN I'M THROUGH DESTROYING OPTIMUS PRIME...
KATCH!
FWUMPH!
...I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!
RUTCH!
HE WANTS TO FIGHT- TO RISE AND DESTROY HIS ENEMY...


...BUT IMAGES OF DROWNING IN SEETHING, MOLTEN FURY INTERFERE. HE THINKS OF GALVATRON AND WANTS TO RUN... AND HIDE.

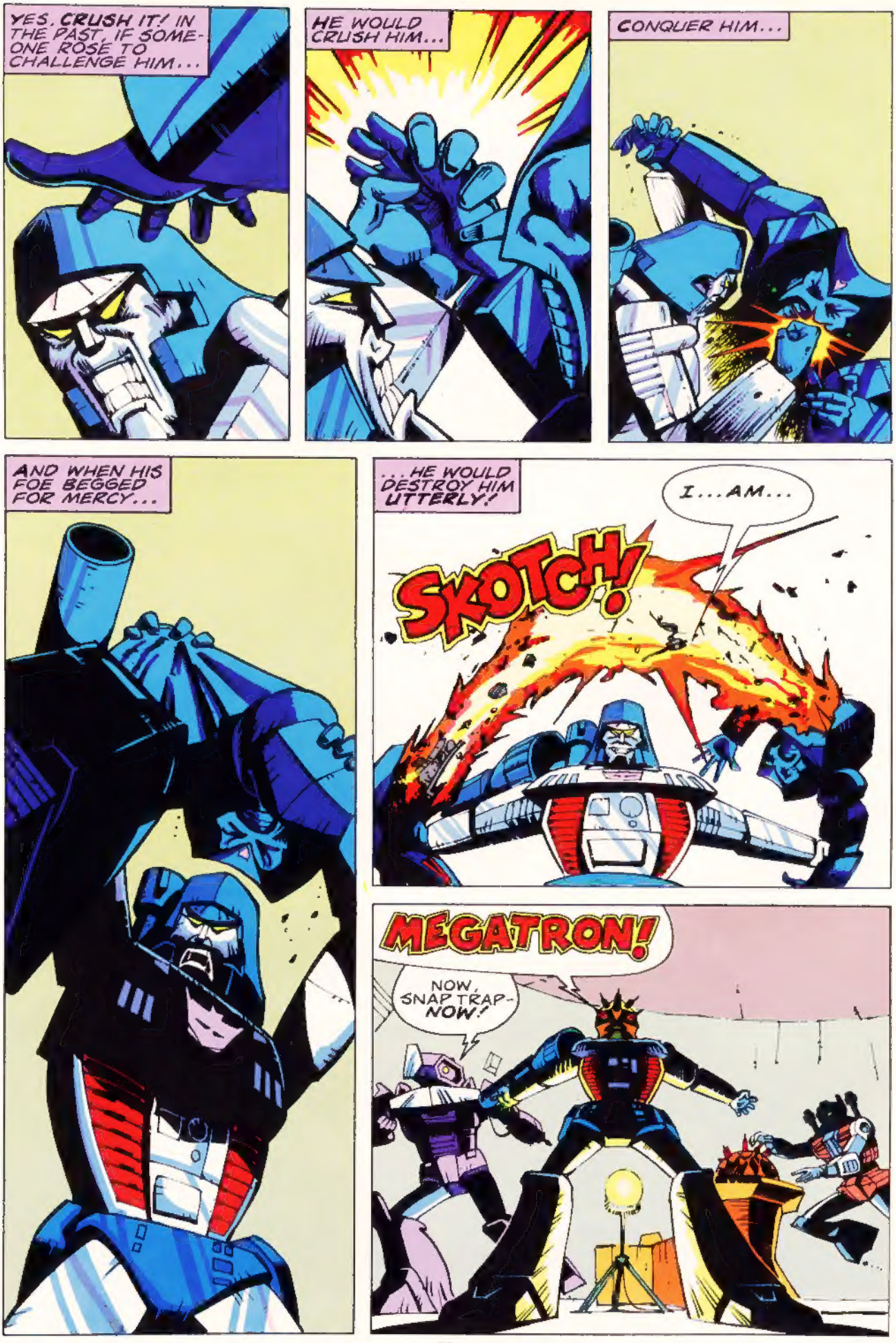

...BUT IMAGES OF DROWNING IN A MURKY HUMAN RIVER, LOCKED IN COMBAT WITH THE MECHANOID, CENTURION, INTERFERE.
HE THINKS OF PRIME, OF STRAXUS AND WANTS TO RUN ... AND HIDE.

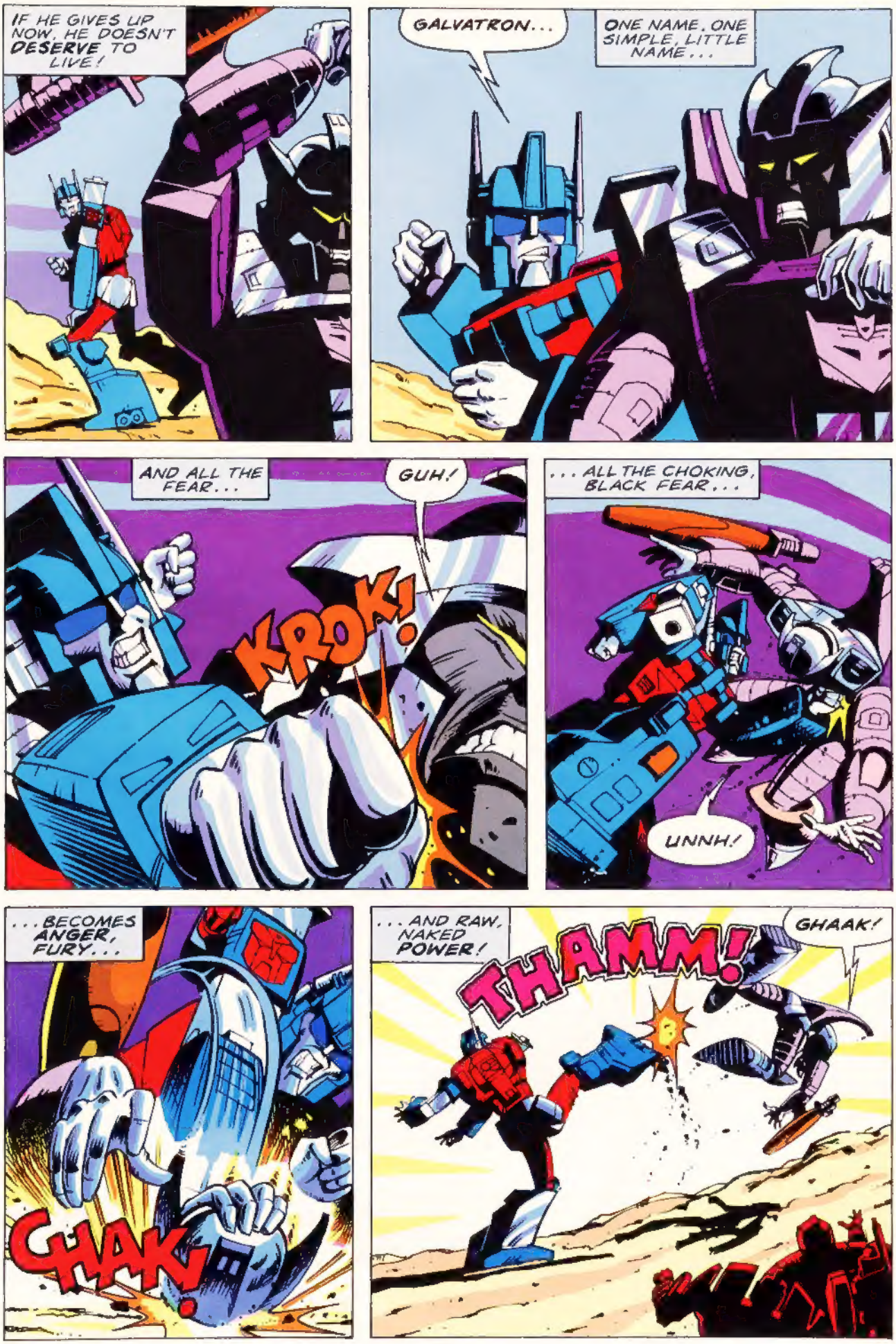

BUT WHAT OF HIS FRIENDS? IF HE RUNS THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

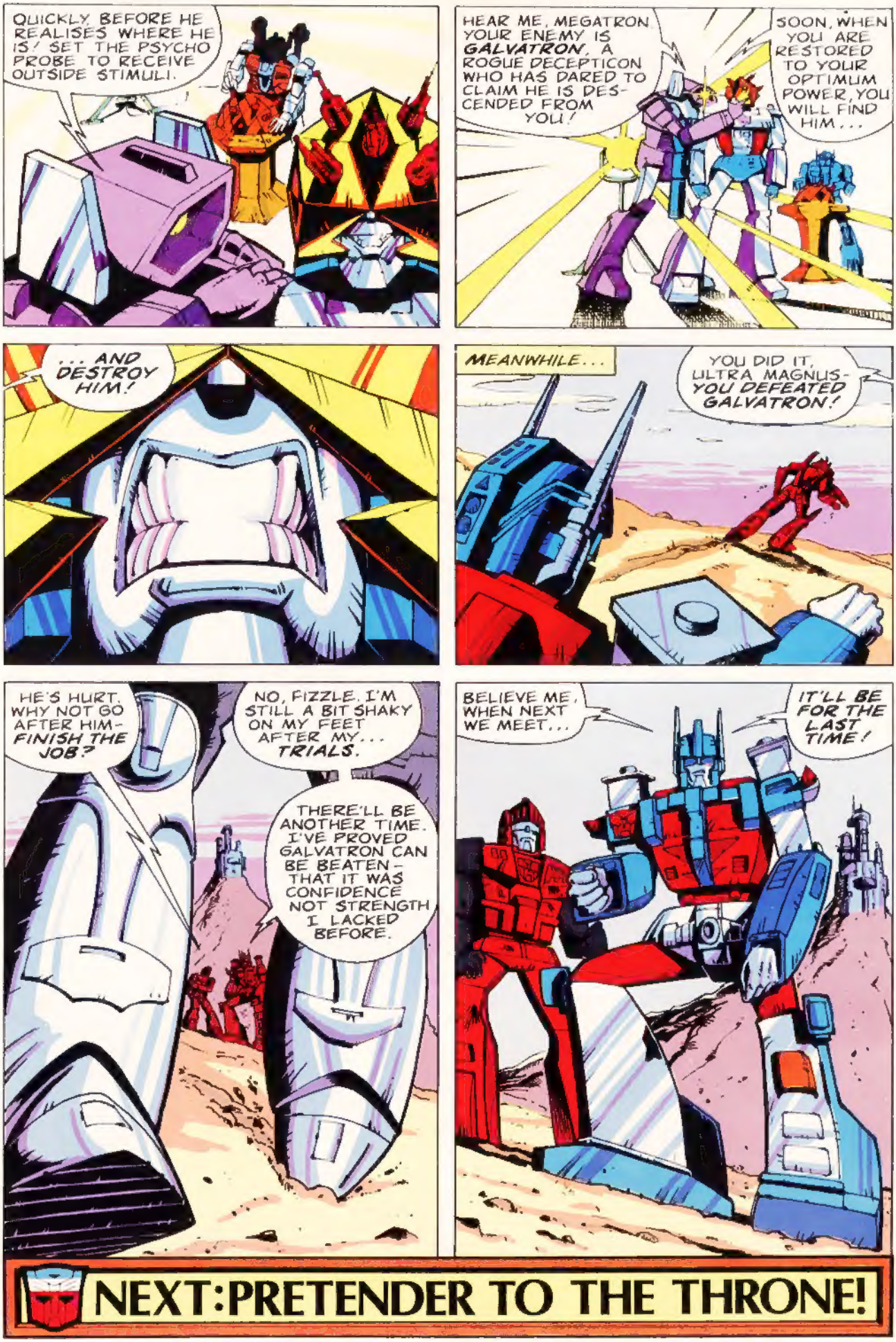

BUT WHAT OF HIS SELF-RESPECT? WILL HE ALLOW STRAXUS TO FIGHT HIS BATTLES FOR HIM, TAKE CONTROL OF HIS MIND?

THE FEAR IS A REAL, CHOKING THING. HE CANNOT OVERCOME IT, BUT PERHAPS HE CAN SUBMERGE IT. BETTER TO DIE A HERO THAN LIVE AS A COWARD.

THE FEAR, THE WEAKNESS - IT HURTS TO HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEM. BUT HE MUST. HIS FOE IS WITHIN HIM - HE MUST CONQUER IT, CRUSH IT.


YES, CRUSH IT! IN THE PAST, IF SOMEONE ROSE TO CHALLENGE HIM...
HE WOULD CRUSH HIM...
CONQUER HIM...
AND WHEN HIS FOE BEGGED FOR MERCY...
...HE WOULD DESTROY HIM UTTERLY!
I...AM...
SKOTCH!
MEGATRON!
NOW, SNAPTRAP- NOW!


IF HE GIVES UP NOW, HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!
GALVATRON...
ONE NAME, ONE SIMPLE, LITTLE NAME...
AND ALL THE FEAR...
GUH!
KROK!
...ALL THE CHOKING, BLACK FEAR...
UNNH!
...BECOMES ANGER, FURY...
CHAK!
...AND RAW, NAKED POWER!
THAMM!
GHAAK!


QUICKLY, BEFORE HE REALISES WHERE HE IS! SET THE PSYCHO PROBE TO RECEIVE OUTSIDE STIMULI.
HEAR ME, MEGATRON. YOUR ENEMY IS GALVATRON, A ROGUE DECEPTICON WHO HAS DARED TO CLAIM HE IS DESCENDED FROM YOU!
SOON, WHEN YOU ARE RESTORED TO YOUR OPTIMUM POWER, YOU WILL FIND HIM...
...AND DESTROY HIM!
MEANWHILE...
YOU DID IT, ULTRA MAGNUS - YOU DEFEATED GALVATRON!
HE'S HURT. WHY NOT GO AFTER HIM - FINISH THE JOB?
NO, FIZZLE. I'M STILL A BIT SHAKY ON MY FEET AFTER MY... TRIALS.
THERE'LL BE ANOTHER TIME. I'VE PROVED GALVATRON CAN BE BEATEN - THAT IT WAS CONFIDENCE NOT STRENGTH I LACKED BEFORE.
BELIEVE ME, WHEN NEXT WE MEET...
IT'LL BE FOR THE LAST TIME!
NEXT: PRETENDER TO THE THRONE!